

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Packet forwarding equipment ~~for connecting~~ adapted to be connected to multicast client nodes and a multicast network including at least one multicast source server, comprising:

~~means~~ a translation unit for translating ~~first a first~~ request of ~~joining to joining~~ or ~~leaving from leaving~~ a multicast group which is sent from one of said multicast client nodes that cannot designate an address of a multicast source server of the multicast group, into ~~second a second~~ request of ~~joining to joining~~ or ~~leaving from leaving~~ the multicast group with designating an address of a multicast source server of the multicast group; and

~~means~~ an interface for transferring the second request to said multicast ~~network~~ network.

wherein the designated address of the multicast source server of the multicast group is determined by the translation unit on the basis of an address of said one of said multicast client nodes and an address of the multicast group to which said first request of joining or leaving was sent from said multicast client node.

2. (canceled)

3. (currently amended) The packet forwarding equipment according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 1, further comprising:

a table comprised of a plurality of entries each indicating relations of ~~a~~ the ~~address of the multicast group address, a the address of the~~ multicast client node address, and ~~a the address of the~~ multicast source address corresponding to the address of the multicast group address and the address of the multicast client node address,

wherein when ~~a the first~~ request of ~~joining~~ joining or leaving ~~a the~~ multicast group is issued from ~~a the~~ multicast client node which does not have a function of designating ~~a the address of the~~ multicast source address ~~server~~, said table is searched for an entry including the address of the multicast client node ~~which has~~ which issued said ~~join first request of joining or leave request leaving~~ and the address of the multicast group to which said ~~join or leave request has to be first request of joining or leaving was~~ sent, thereby to designate ~~a multicast source with a the address of the~~ multicast source ~~address~~ server indicated by the retrieved entry.

4. (currently amended) The packet forwarding equipment according to claim 3, wherein when the address of the multicast source ~~address~~ server of the entry retrieved from said table is "don't care", said first request is processed as a request to ~~join or leave of joining or leaving~~ an any-source multicast group which does not designate the address of a multicast source server.

5. (original) The packet forwarding equipment according to claim 3, wherein said table is provided either in the packet forwarding equipment or in a different

apparatus which can be accessed by the packet forwarding equipment via a communication line.

6. – 13. (canceled)

14. (new) Packet forwarding equipment adapted to be connected to multicast client nodes and a multicast network including at least one multicast source server, comprising:

a translation unit for translating an any-source type of request of joining or leaving a multicast group which is sent from one of said multicast client nodes into a source-specific type of request of joining or leaving a source-specific multicast group; and

an interface for transferring the source-specific type of request to said multicast network,

wherein an address of the multicast source server of the source-specific multicast group is determined by the translation unit on the basis of an address of said one of said multicast client nodes and an address of the multicast group to which said any-source type of request of joining or leaving was sent from said multicast client node.

15. (new) The packet forwarding equipment according to claim 14, further comprising:

a table comprised of a plurality of entries each indicating relations of the address of the multicast group, the address of the multicast client node, and the

address of the multicast source server corresponding to the address of the multicast group and the address of the multicast client node,

wherein when the any-source type of request of joining or leaving the multicast group is issued from the multicast client node which does not have a function of sending the source-specific type of request of joining or leaving, said table is searched for an entry including the address of the multicast client node which issued said any-source type of request of joining or leaving and the address of the multicast group to which said any-source type of request of joining or leaving was sent, thereby to designate the address of the multicast source server indicated by the retrieved entry.

16. (new) The packet forwarding equipment according to claim 15, wherein when the address of the multicast source server of the entry retrieved from said table is "don't care", said any-source type of request is processed and translated into the source-specific type of request.

17. (new) The packet forwarding equipment according to claim 15, wherein said table is provided either in the packet forwarding equipment or in a different apparatus which can be accessed by the packet forwarding equipment via a communication line.